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STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER

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Treasurer Marshall Warns of Lottery Scammers

(Carson City, NV) Over the last two weeks, the State Treasurer's Office, under Kate Marshall, has identified 34 counterfeit checks totaling \$174,800 that were sent to people all over the country with false promises of enormous winnings.

Marshall has sent copies of the counterfeit checks and the scam letters to Nevada's Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission and is posting a consumer alert notice on the State Treasurer's website. Letters are sent to unsuspecting citizens bearing the logo of "The National Lottery" and containing a counterfeit check. "Winners" are told to wire "processing fees" once their bank has cashed the check in order to obtain their total "winnings". However, people end up losing their own money once the check bounces.

"We don't want any more citizens to be lured by promises of false winnings into giving up confidential information on their identity or their bank accounts, much less their hard-earned dollars. If someone receives such a letter, they should report it to State or Federal authorities," said Marshall. The Treasurer's Office originally became aware of the counterfeit checks because of the scam artists' failed attempts to use the State of Nevada's bank routing numbers on the checks. However, because of protections the Treasurer's Office has in place, no fraudulent checks have been processed.

In addition to losing money when an individual sends the "processing fee", recipients who try to cash these counterfeit checks may also unwittingly send the scam artists information about their bank accounts and routing numbers, allowing the "scammer" to potentially access even more of their money. "So far we have seen these false lottery mailings sent to persons in at least 8 different states," noted Marshall.

Individuals who suspect they have been targeted by scam artists should contact the Federal Trade Commission at (877) FTC-HELP or www.ftc.gov. Consumers can also contact the State Treasurer's Office at (775) 684-5600.

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